THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) There are 49 branches of public sector banks in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The information regarding the total number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates recruited in each year Statewise and Bank-wise is not maintained. However, a statement indicating bank-wise representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the public sector banks as at the end of 31st December, 1990 is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CLXIV, Annexure No. 25]

**Import of life saving drugs and equipment of official exchange rate**

1177. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in his budget speech, he assured that import of Life Saving Drugs and equipment will be permitted on official exchange rate;

(b) whether it is also a fact that import of all Life Saving Drugs and equipment are not permitted at the official exchange rate;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to permit such imports at official rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. In the budget speech it was proposed that 'the foreign exchange surrendered at official exchange rates will be available to meet the foreign exchange requirements of essential imports such as petroleum and oil products, fertilizers, defence and life saving drugs'.

(b) to (d) The import of drugs and equipments identified as life saving, are permitted at the official exchange rate. The list of such drugs and equipments is, however, kept under constant review the concerned authorities.

**Conversion of stand by arrangement into extended fund facility by I.M.F.**

1178. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IMF will convert the stand-by arrangement into an extended fund facility arrangement for three years; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) and (b) The Government intends to have discussions with IMF on a medium-term assistance programme including conversion of Stand-by Arrangement into Extended Fund Facility. It would be premature of judge the outcome these discussions.

**Reduction in SCICI Financing to Shipping Sector**

1179. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the S.C.I.C.I. has taken a decision to reduce financing to the shipping sector;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the S.C.I.C.I. is also reducing its stake in the fishery sector;

(d) if so, what are the details of S.C.I.C.I.'s plan to move to new sectors?